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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART (PUBLIC)* OF THE 1063rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 12 April 1991, at 11.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. POCAR

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CCPR/C/SR.1063.

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The public meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE COVENANT

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Panama containing some of the additional information requested by the Committee in connection with the consideration of that country's second periodic report. That information would be made available to the members of the Committee in due course.

2. With regard to the reports to be dealt with at the next session, the Bureau suggested that the Committee should consider the third periodic report of Iraq, the second periodic reports of Jordan and Madagascar and the initial report of Sudan, and continue its consideration of the second periodic report of Morocco. The Bureau also suggested that the third periodic reports of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Mongolia should be kept in reserve for possible consideration. Lastly, the Bureau suggested that the Secretariat should be instructed to write to the Governments of Austria, Ecuador and Poland informing them that their periodic reports would be considered at the Committee's autumn session. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt those suggestions.

3. It was so decided.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

4. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the tentative calendar of meetings for 1992-1993 prepared by the Secretariat. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposed calendar. It was proposed that the forty-fourth session of the Committee should be held in New York from 23 March to 10 April 1992, the forty-fifth session in Geneva from 13 to 31 July 1992, the forty-sixth session in Geneva from 19 October to 6 November 1992, the forty-seventh session in New York from 22 March to 9 April 1993, the forty-eighth session in Geneva from 12 to 30 July 1993, and the forty-ninth session in Geneva from 18 October to 5 November 1993.

5. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND OTHER MATTERS

Progress report of the Special Rapporteur on Follow-Up

6. Mr. FODOR, speaking as Special Rapporteur on Follow-Up, said that in his progress report, he dealt with the particulars of cases considered in 1991 in which the Committee had found that violations of the Covenant had been committed. He would continue to add to the report in order to keep it up to date.

(Mr. Fodor)

7. The Secretary-General had sent notes verbales to the States parties concerned in the cases informing them of the new procedure adopted by the Committee and the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Follow-Up, and requesting follow-up information on the cases. He had been informed that information would be provided in the near future on the cases involving Uruguay. As the three-month time-limit would expire in early June, he hoped that the information would reach the Committee before the beginning of its next session.

8. Noting that no notes verbales had been sent in those cases where the States parties had provided some information, he asked for guidance on how to proceed in those cases where some information had been provided but it was insufficient.

9. Mr. LALLAH stressed the need for further information in cases involving partial remedies. The Special Rapporteur should continue his work until States parties transmitted appropriate replies indicating the extent to which they complied with the Committee's decisions.

10. Mr. EL-SHAFEI said that the Committee should authorize Mr. Fodor to continue his work in order to obtain more detailed replies from States parties and request further information in cases where replies had not been received before expiry of the time-limit in question.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Special Rapporteur on Follow-Up should continue his work and request additional information when necessary.

12. Mrs. HIGGINS inquired whether Mr. Fodor's report should be considered confidential in nature.

13. Mr. DIMITRIJEVIC said that Mr. Fodor should press States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Covenant. His progress report should not be viewed as confidential because it was a follow-up to decisions taken by the Committee concerning the obligations of States parties. The rule of confidentiality did not apply to such matters, which should be given as much publicity as possible to induce States parties to comply with decisions by the Committee.

14. Mr. MAVROMMATIS said that since the Committee was currently engaged in following up a number of cases, it should give further consideration to whether the progress report by Mr. Fodor should be issued as a Committee document.

15. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the progress report would be included in the Committee's annual report.

16. He announced that consultations had been held among the members of the Committee on the appointment of a Special Rapporteur for New Communications

(The Chairman)

for the coming year. In the light of the consultations, he took it that the Committee wished to appoint Mr. Lallah to that office.

17. It was so decided.

18. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take decisions on the future membership of its working groups. For the Working Group on Communications, Mr. Myullerson, Mr. Prado Vallejo, Mr. Sadi, Mr. El-Shafei and Mr. Pocar had been proposed as members. For the Working Group on Article 40 of the Covenant, Mr. Dimitrijević, Mr. Wennergren, Mr. Ando and Mr. Aguilar had been proposed as members.

19. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to approve those appointments for one year.

20. It was so decided.

21. Mr. LALLAH pointed out that Mr. Waco and Mr. Ndiaye, who were absent, might wish to serve as alternates.

22. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Working Group on Article 40 of the Covenant should consider the list of issues to be sent to the missions of Iraq, Jordan and Madagascar before the next session and review the draft general comments on articles 7 and 10. The Working Group should also address the question of the Committee's methods of work. That matter should be given careful consideration in both the Working Group and in plenary meetings of the Committee at the next session. Lastly, the Working Group should prepare a document on the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights to serve as a basis for discussion in plenary. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt those suggestions.

23. It was so decided.

24. Mr. DIMITRIJEVIĆ said that it was very difficult, if not impossible, for people to attend the public meetings of the Committee in New York because the security guards thought that such meetings were closed to the public. Accordingly, the Committee, through the Chairman, should bring that matter to the attention of the Secretary-General in order to correct the situation.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that that was an important point and that he would do his best to remedy the situation.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

26. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the forty-first session closed.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.